

**RT&E SPECIES
WORK GROUP AGENDA
19 Nov. 2002**

Purpose: To prioritize ranked species (state, federal, global) and identify specific threats to these species in such a way that allows us to meet the short- and long-term goals to sustain biodiversity within NCR.

Outcomes:

Revised Action Plan and Time Table

Review progress to date:

Recap major points from July scoping meetings

Follow Up Actions—Where are we? What changes are needed?

Follow up Actions

Since the group did not have sufficient data to complete the process of selecting sites, defining threats and drafting goals, it articulated the following plan to complete these tasks.

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| <p>1. Update the RTE Species Matrix with the data from NatureServe and distribute to experts for peer review.
Lead: Marcus Koenen
Deadline: October 1, 2002</p> <p>2. Generate a list of possible monitoring sites based on NatureServe data.
Lead: Marcus Koenen
Deadline: October 1, 2002</p> <p>3. Obtain list of rare vegetation communities present in parks from Heritage organizations.
Lead: Ellen Gray
Deadline: October 31, 2002</p> <p>4. Peer review conducted by Subject Matter Experts. (Species and communities list, monitoring sites)
Deadline: October 31, 2002</p> | <p>5. Meeting: SAC RTE Work Group
Outcome of meeting:
▪ Select sites from the computer generated list
Lead: Diane Pavek
Meeting date: November, 2002</p> <p>6. Meeting: RTE Work Group & Park Natural Resources Managers
Outcomes of meeting:
▪ Identify threats specific to each site
▪ Establish short and long-term goals
▪ Establish monitoring objectives
Lead: Diane Pavek
Meeting date: Second week of January, 2003</p> <p>7. Meeting: SAC RTE Work Group
Outcomes of meeting:
▪ Identify monitoring methods and protocols
▪ QA/QC measures
▪ Evaluation mechanisms
Lead: Diane Pavek
Meeting date: Feb/March 2003?</p> |
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Revisions to and Moving forward with Actions list

- 1. Compile Heritage Excel files into readable format to send to SMEs –when? Does this need to be separate from #4?**
- 2. What do the mapped species and sites look like?**

3. Discuss rare communities

Where are we? How pull together?

NatureServe Jan/Feb 2003 review of Ecoregions (Review list by ecologists.

Lesley Sneddon said that they will generate a list of rare communities for the Central Appalachian and Northern Piedmont Ecoregions)

Possibly ready by March 03

July Scoping Mtg Summary:

1. Ask Heritage for Rare Communities
2. Consult SME's with list. Ask if rare plants occur in rare communities
3. Ask for suggestions of rare communities from them

5. Discuss Site Selection and Conservation

Identify types of information available or needed about a site

Develop criteria for site prioritization

July Scoping Mtg Summary:

1. Define critical area needed by a species for its life history
2. Area that ecological processes must be functioning
3. Criteria should include
 - Biodiversity Significance
 - [Threats, Irreplaceable, rare assemblages—low, med, high; collective significance; G1s and G2s]
 - Urgency of threat – habitat secure, exotics managed
 - Core Area
 - Park operations
 - Park special interest spp
 - Feasibility (to work on site or spp)
 - Complementarity (full range present, remove redundancy)

6. Meeting with Natural Resource Managers in April or May 03 for their feedback?**7. Finish up Monitoring reviews and protocol identification June/July?**

--ON WE GO--

Identify threats to species at each site

Discuss with Natural Resource Managers

Discuss short and long term goals for the species and sites

Organize at a Regional scale

For example:

Abundance, extent, resilience, persistence (Pavlik 1996)

To protect and restore the most at risk species

To identify current and emerging problems such as invasive exotics, habitat loss

To document the effects of threats

To determine change through time in species populations and in communities

To establish baseline where no prior information exists

To maintain/preserve the relative abundance of species native to a site

To obtain data about species populations

To have scientific basis for specific management decisions and strategies

Establish goals for populations/communities/sites

Establish objectives

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Realistic, Time-fixed)

What will be accomplished?

How and when will it be accomplished?

Who will accomplish it?

For example:

Increase population size so that the probability of extinction is small

Manage for long-term viability

Discuss potential monitoring methods.

July Scoping Mtg Summary:

Check every occurrence of species every 10 years or at the standard used by the Natural Heritage program unless NPS has specific directives otherwise.

Articulate the purpose for data use

Measure at a variety of scales (species, ecological processes, landscape)

Use landscape principles

Who else is monitoring this species? community? site?

Contact? Does the monitoring meet NPS standards?

Identify QA/QC measures for the monitoring

Consistent methods over time

Document procedures

Use scientifically accepted methods
Compare data to other similar studies

Outcomes to determine if the monitoring is successful

How often should program (goals/objectives/monitoring) be evaluated for effectiveness?
How often should objectives be updated?
How will the monitoring be refined?
Bring in subject experts for review